(b) the status of action taken on the allegations levelled against the Chairman of Allotment Selection Committee of Sector-4 by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether allotment of agencies selected by the Selection Committee of Sector-4 has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The complaints received from time to time against selection of dealers/distibutors of petroleum products in the country, including Bihar, are to be got investigated and action is taken on the reports, as per the guidelines laid down.

Cost of production of natural gas

†3177. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected average cost of natural gas during the present period of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the cost of production of natural gas in the country is more than that of the international level;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) During the present period of Ninth Five Year Plan, the average cost of production of natural gas by Oil India Limited is Rs. 1284.04 and by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited is Rs. 1445.25 per thousand standard cubic metre which is exclusive of statutory levies and normative return on capital employed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Handing over of Assam Gas Cracker Project to Oil PSUS

†3178. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had handed over the Assam Gas Cracker Project to Reliance Industries Limited in 1995;

(b) if so, the cost as well as the installed production capacity of this project alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to hand over the said project to Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation or Oil India Limited working in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Assam Industrial Development Corporation of Government of Assam is implementing the Assam Gas Cracker Project in a Joint Venture with Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL)—a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). Government of Assam had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RIL on May 20,1994 to promote the gas based Assam Gas Cracker Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 3600 crore to produce the initial installed capacity of 2 lakh tonne per annum of ethylene.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.